Selling of kidneys

2307. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether reports of people selling kidneys are on the rise;

(b) if so, the number of cases detected in the last one year; and

(c) the steps taken to check such sales under duress?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Under Section 13(2) of the transplantation of Human Organs Act, 1994, the State Governments are empowered to appoint by a notification one or more officers as Appropriate Authorities for the purposes of the Act. Such Appropriate Authorities are empowered to investigate any complaints of breach of provisions of the said Act including those pertaining to sale and purchase of human organs including kidney. The information relating to incidents involving the selling of kidney which is against the provisions and punishable under the said Act should be available with the State Government(s) concerned in whose jurisdiction the offence takes place. The Director General of Health Services has been appointed as the Appropriate Authority in respect of all the Union Territories including the N.C.T. of Delhi. Two cases of people selling their kidneys pertaining to Delhi have come to the notice during last one year.

(c) The Transplantation of Human Organs Act was enacted on 8th July, 1994 to provide for the regulation of removal, storage and transplantation of human organs for therapeutic purposes and for the prevention of commercial dealings in human organs and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. The said Act is applicable in the whole of the States of Goa, Maharashtra and Himachal Pradesh and all the Union Territories. Other States can adopt the Act by resolution. It has since been adopted/enacted by all the States except Bihar and newly created States, namely, Uttaranchal, Jharkhand and Chhatisgarh. Under Sections 18 to 23 of the said Act, necessary provisions have been made to check such sale of human organs.

Health care scheme for school going children in Arunachal Pradesh

2308. SHRI NABAM REBIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any health care scheme for poor school going children in the State of Arunachal Pradesh is being started;